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Sutter Farm Bureau, a non-profit trade organization whose mission is to represent Yuba-Sutter agriculture through public relations, education

and public policy advocacy in order to promote the economic viability of agriculture balanced with appropriate management of natural resources. This magazine and the activities sponsored by the Tuba-Sutter Farm Bureau are paid for by the annual dues of its membership.

Articles published in Crop Talk may be reprinted without permission provided credit is given to the Yuba-Sutter Farm the Bureau and a copy of the issue in which the reprint appears is forwarded to our office listed below.

Article suggestions are encouraged, and we also encourage our members to submit their own articles for review. These should be mailed to our office the Crop Talk Editor.

President's Message: Your voice will guide Farm Bureau's policies in 2025

Courtesy of CFBF Ag Alert

s we step into 2025, we face no shortage of important issues to address while setting our priorities for the new year. This past fall, when we began planning for this year, I encouraged our team to do so with a renewed focus on truly listening to the voices of California farmers and ranchers. They rose to the challenge. I'm excited to share with you, our farmer and rancher members, a new, year-long initiative focused on understanding your concerns and addressing your needs. This effort will be rooted in California Farm Bureau's policy and legal advocacy work, while also encompassing

all aspects of Farm Bureau's mission. Together, we aim to uncover solutions to farm policy challenges, as well as opportunities for professional development and education that support your success.

We kicked off this process a few weeks ago at the California Farm Bureau Annual Meeting, where we hosted a series of listening sessions. Participants selected the topics they wanted to discuss and joined conversations led by our Board of Directors. These farmer and rancher leaders took detailed notes and gathered invaluable feedback about the pain points you're experiencing at the farm gate. The

conversations were heard by our staff, embraced by leadership and will shape Farm Bureau's priorities as we advance to the next phase of engaging with and amplifying the voices of California farmers and ranchers.

The next step in this policy engagement process brings these conversations out of Sacramento and into county Farm Bureaus. Eight counties have stepped up to host Commodity Advisory Committee meetings, inviting all agricultural members to join either in person or virtually. At these meetings, you will hear from subject matter experts and have the opportunity to share concerns, challenges and proposed solutions directly to



Photo/Brian Baer -California Farm Bureau President Shannon Douglass

California Farm Bureau staff and leadership. Farmer and rancher members from across the state will chair the meetings, building on the issues-based discussions and priorities identified at the Annual Meeting. I encourage each of you to participate. Your voice—the voice of the farmer and rancher—is the one we're listening for.

As part of this effort, two members of the Board of Directors will serve as official liaisons at each board meeting, ensuring the discussions are carried from the farm to the boardroom. Additionally, First Vice President Shaun Crook, Second

Vice President Ron Peterson, Chief Operating Officer Dan Durheim and I look forward to attending the meetings, engaging with you and hearing your insights firsthand.

You'll find a schedule of upcoming meetings below. Also, in the next several issues of Ag Alert*, you'll see an ad with a QR code linking to details for each session, including the agenda and a virtual participation link. For those attending in person, lunch will be provided by the California Farm Bureau. In 2024, we were reminded that we're stronger together. In 2025, let's remind everyone of the powerful voice of California farmers and ranchers.



Photo/Isabella Quiñonez - Mendocino County forester Estelle Clifton, right, discusses priority issues as California Farm Bureau natural resources and land use consultant Erin Huston, center, California Farm Bureau First Vice president Shaun Crook of Tuolumne County, left, and Jim Morris, Siskiyou County Farm Bureau member, listen. The talks were part of a listening session for members held at the organization's Annual Meeting in December.

Yuba-Sutter Young Farmers and Ranchers Toys for Tots Drive

Written by Ciera Mannan, YSFB Program Coordinator

or the past several years, the Yuba-Sutter Young Farmers and Ranchers (YF&R) committee has proudly participated in the Toys for Tots program. This year, YF&R added a fun twist by challenging the Yuba-Sutter Farm Bureau (YSFB) board to a friendly competition: whichever group donated the most toys to the YSFB office by December 16th would win, with the losing team cooking dinner for the winners.

YF&R partnered with Tractor Supply, who generously provided discounts on toy purchases, making it possible to contribute even more to the cause. At their annual Christmas

party, they collected approximately 125 toys. Additional contributions from members increased their total to an impressive 187 toys. The YSFB board also showed their generosity by coming together to donate 163 toys.

In the end, the combined efforts of the YSFB board and the YF&R committee resulted in a remarkable donation of 350 toys. This collaboration highlights the generosity and community spirit of local farmers and ranchers, making a significant difference for children this holiday season. We hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and are looking forward to 2025!









2024 California Farm Bureau Annual Meeting

Written by Ciera Mannan, YSFB Program Coordinator

ecember 7th marked the beginning of the 106th annual California Farm Bureau meeting in Monterey, California. This year's event brought together agricultural leaders, innovators, and dedicated Farm Bureau members. Our board members and staff also made the journey to engage, learn, and celebrate the accomplishments of the past year.

The California Farm Bureau Annual Meeting began with a golf tournament at Bayonet & Black Horse, featuring over 81 participants from throughout the state. Farm West Insurance Services served as the hole-in-one sponsor, offering a brand-new F-150 as a prize for any golfer who achieved the impressive feat. Staff and board members added to the fun by hosting games and engaging in conversations with the golfers throughout the event.

Mary Heffernan of Five Marys Ranch headlined the Emerging Leaders Lunch. A sixth-generation Californian with deep agricultural roots, Mary and her husband, Brian, left Silicon Valley to build a thriving ranching business in Northern California. Alongside their four daughters, all named Mary, they've developed a successful direct-to-consumer meat operation. With experience launching over 22 businesses, Mary shared her entrepreneurial journey, offering insights into resilience and growth.



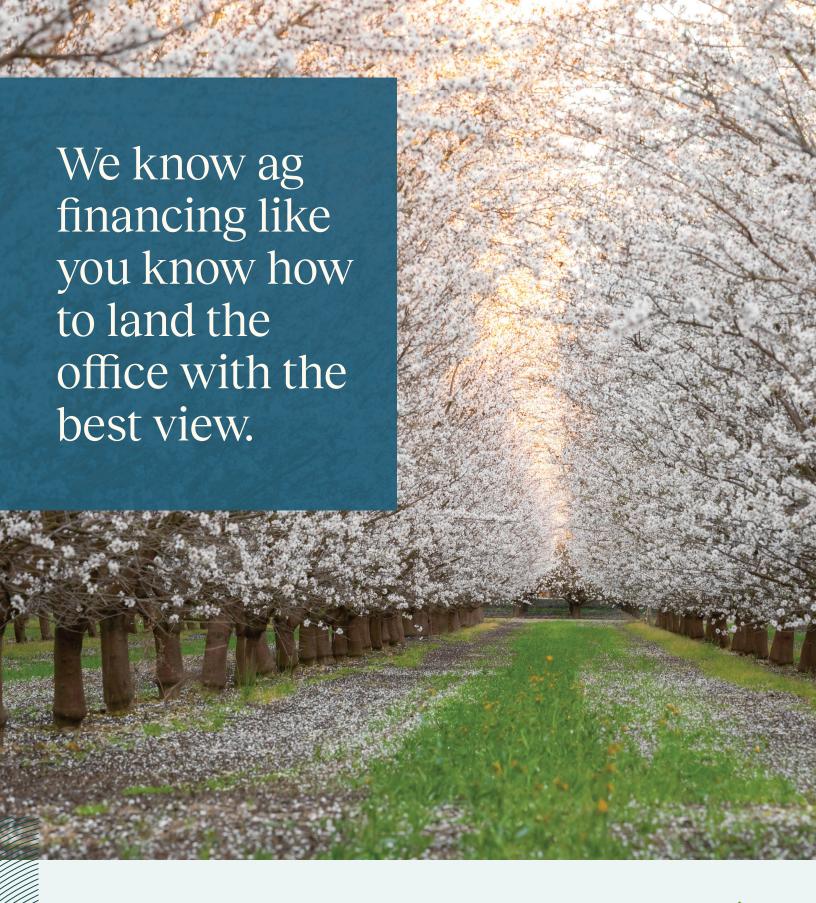
During the Emerging Leaders Lunch, two of our board members, Harry Sidhu and Sy Honig, graduated from the Leadership Farm Bureau program. This leadership development program, sponsored by the California Farm Bureau, invests in emerging leaders within the Farm Bureau community. Participants gain valuable skills and perspectives in personal development, public speaking, media relations, political advocacy, and understanding key agricultural and governmental issues. Congratulations to Harry, Sy, and the rest of the Class of 2024 on this incredible achievement!

The meeting included an Awards Banquet dinner where numerous counties were recognized for their accomplishments. This year, the Yuba-Sutter Farm Bureau was honored to receive the 2024 Innovator Award, voted on by the attendees at Annual Meeting. The Innovator Award recognizes the most creative and forward-thinking program or project led by a county Farm Bureau. Our Yuba County Ag Tours project earned this recognition. We offered county and government officials firsthand experiences at various agricultural operations, to better understand the complexities and importance of agriculture.

The California Farm Bureau Annual Meeting is open to all Farm Bureau members, offering an opportunity to engage with local and state issues, earn Continuing Education credits, and connect with other members and staff. We encourage all YSFB members to join us at next year's California Farm Bureau Annual Meeting. The California Farm Bureau's Annual Meeting is not an event you want to miss! Together, we can continue to learn, grow, and advocate for the future of farming and agriculture. @



Yuba-Sutter Farm Bureau at the Fun Run



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Servicing your Ag Pump Needs: North Valley Pump

NORTH VALLEY PUMP

Written by Ciera Mannan, YSFB Program Coordinator

ebruary 2024 marked an exciting new chapter for Jake and Lisa Peters as they began a company, North Valley Pump (NVP). With over a decade of farming experience under their belts, the Peters family decided to use their agricultural background to serve their farming community in a different way.

Family-owned and operated, North Valley Pump was built on a foundation of quality work, customer satisfaction, and community

engagement. Jake and Lisa are committed to developing strong ties in the Yuba-Sutter area, aiming to not only serve their customers but also contribute to the success of local agriculture. As a company, their mission is to save customers money wherever possible while ensuring every job is done correctly.

NVP specializes in a variety of services tailored to meet the needs of farmers and ranchers, including:

- **Deep Well Turbines:** Expertise in installing, maintaining, and repairing these critical irrigation systems.
- Low Lift Pumps and Submersible Agricultural Pumps:
 Providing solutions that keep water moving efficiently.
- Centrifugal Pumps: A key component in many agricultural setups.
- Machining and Fabrication: Expertise in repairing axial, mixed flow, turbine, and centrifugal pumps.

- Electrical Troubleshooting: Diagnosing and resolving electrical system issues efficiently.
- New Wiring: Professional installation of electrical wiring for various applications.
- Panel Repair: Ensuring control panels operate safely and reliably.
- VFD Installation: Installing variable frequency drives for enhanced performance and energy efficiency.

Spring and summer are the busiest time of the year for NVP with many installations and repairs. During the fall and winter months, NVP prioritizes maintaining their equipment, staying productive with shop work, and preparing for the next busy season in between jobs.

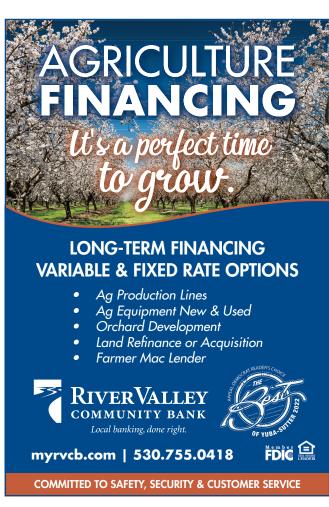
Staying educated on the latest products and technologies is a top priority for NVP. This dedication ensures that they're always offering the most efficient and effective solutions to their customers. In 2024, NVP became a member of the Yuba-Sutter Farm Bureau, reinforcing their commitment to being active, informed members of the agricultural community.

Jake and Lisa Peters envision a bright future for North Valley Pump. They aim to grow their business steadily, helping as many farmers and ranchers as possible. By combining their expertise, dedication, and passion for agriculture, North Valley Pump is sure to make a lasting impact on the Yuba-Sutter farming community.













President's Corner:

New Year, Renewed Commitment: Strengthening Agriculture in 2025

Written by Brian Greathouse, YSFB President

appy New Year! As we start 2025, let's take a moment to reflect on past growing seasons and look to the horizon for the upcoming crop year with renewed energy because, as farmers and ranchers, we are always looking at ways to improve and make impactful changes. The Yuba-Sutter Farm Bureau (YSFB) is proud of our work in 2024. We increased our participation in local and state issues and engaged with groups we hadn't connected with

in a while. I hope you saw our Year in Review in last month's Crop Talk, highlighting some of our efforts. This year we will continue working for the future of agriculture in Yuba-Sutter, and your involvement is important for our success. YSFB has identified three priorities to focus on this year. Those include advocacy, membership value, and community enrichment. First, legislation has already impacted agriculture, including new policies related to water, labor, air quality, and other issues that took effect on January 1. Regulations and legislation will continue to be introduced on every level that will impact our community. The Farm Bureau is following these issues closely. The YSFB board voted to support other County Farm Bureaus who are navigating issues with the hope that by the time they reach Yuba-Sutter, there will be clarity and accountability from the enforcing agencies. Specifically, YSFB contributed to the Kings County Farm Bureau to aid with their lawsuit against the State Water Resources Board regarding the Sustainable



Groundwater Management Act. Changing legislation can be challenging, but working with and supporting Farm Bureaus statewide allows us to be better prepared for when the legislation is implemented in our communities.

Locally, YSFB wrote a letter of support to place a ban on producing industrial hemp in Sutter County, as it has proven to be a non-viable agribusiness for our region. When initially introduced, there were proposals for a

processing plant and a clear market for the product. There has been no identified market or processing plant to support the crop in the county and it uses a lot of resources that can be used to support other crops in the county. A temporary moratorium was passed at the County Board of Supervisors Meeting in December. Next, we will focus on membership value. We are committed to hosting quarterly events including trainings and networking opportunities to engage with fellow and potential members. These events will provide valuable resources to help you meet compliance requirements, share insights, and strengthen relationships within our agricultural community. A schedule will be printed soon so you can add them to your calendar.

Finally, we are working on strengthening partnerships with various local groups and continue raising awareness about the importance of agriculture. Through our print and social media outlets, we will share the stories of our members—your hard work, innovation, and what you do to support the community.



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Mexico Notifies United States of New World Screwworm Detection

Courtesy of USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

USDA Takes Action to Prevent Spread to U.S. Animals

n November 22, 2024, the Chief Veterinary Officer of Mexico notified the United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) of a positive detection of New World screwworm (NWS) in Mexico. The NWS was found in a cow in the southern Mexico state of Chiapas, at an inspection checkpoint close to the border with Guatemala. NWS are fly larvae that infest



living tissue of warm-blooded animals, causing infection.

"Given the northward movement of NWS, APHIS has in recent months stepped up its efforts in Central America to partner with impacted countries to push this pest out of newly affected areas," said Dr. Rosemary Sifford, Chief Veterinary Officer of the United States. "With this latest find in Mexico, we will further intensify this work to protect American agriculture and reestablish the barrier in Central America." Given the severity of the threat from NWS. APHIS is restricting the importation of animal commodities1 originating from or transiting Mexico effective immediately and pending further information from Mexican veterinary authorities on the size and scope of the infestation. A complete list of regions APHIS recognizes as affected by screwworm and well as more detailed information on trade restrictions can be found on the USDA APHIS Animal Health Status of Regions website.

NWS maggots can infest livestock and other warm-blooded animals, including people. They most often enter an animal through an open wound and feed on the animal's living flesh. While they can fly much farther under ideal conditions, adult flies generally do not travel more than a couple of miles if there are suitable host animals in the area.

APHIS is working with partners in Mexico and Central America to stop the spread of NWS into the United States and asking all producers along the southern border to watch their livestock and pets for signs of NWS and immediately report potential cases.

Screwworm infestations are difficult to detect at first. Check your pets and livestock for draining or enlarging wounds, and signs of discomfort. Also look for screwworm larvae or eggs. Screwworm eggs are creamy and white and are deposited near the edges of superficial wounds. If you suspect your animal is infected with screwworm, contact your veterinarian. While not common in humans, if you notice a suspicious lesion on your body or suspect you may have contracted screwworms, seek immediate medical attention.

Since 2006, APHIS has collaborated with Panama to

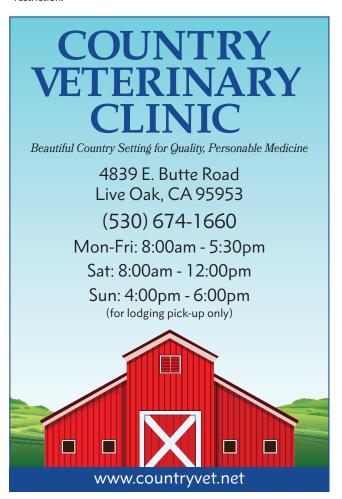
maintain a barrier zone in eastern Panama, working to prevent the northward movement of NWS from South America to NWS-free areas in Central and North America. In the last two years, screwworm has spread north of the barrier throughout Panama and into Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala and now Mexico. This increase is due to multiple factors including new areas of farming in previous barrier

regions for fly control and increased cattle movements into the region. APHIS is releasing sterile flies through aerial and ground release at strategic locations throughout Central America

APHIS will continue working with partners in Mexico and Central America to eradicate NWS from the affected areas and to reestablish the biological barrier in Panama.

To learn more about NWS, visit the APHIS website.

¹ Live cattle and bison are the animal commodities impacted by this restriction.





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WELCOME KIRAN!

Introducing our new Agent, Kirandeep Rai. Growing up in a local farming family, her values were deeply influenced by her father, Kashmir Rai, a respected farmer and contractor, who taught her the importance of hard work, integrity and commitment to community.

Kiran earned her BS in marketing and an MBA from California State University, Sacramento. After obtaining 8 years of experience in the insurance industry, she set out to bring her expertise back to her roots, and become the best resource for farmers. She completed her Agribusiness and Farm Insurance Specialist Certification (AFIS), establishing herself as an agriculture insurance expert. This specialization enables her to provide tailored solutions that truly protect the livelihoods, families and futures of her clients.

Her mission is to ensure that farmers in her community have the coverage they need, backed by genuine support and expert guidance. Farmers can rely on Kiran to help safeguard what matters most – your land, your business and your legacy.



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Introducing UCCE's New Area Director: Building on a Legacy of Innovation and Collaboration

Written by Preet Ahluwalia, MBA Area Director: Sutter-Yuba, Butte, Glenn, and Colusa Counties.

ith a decade of experience as an entrepreneur and deep family roots in agriculture, I am excited to step into the role of Area Director for UC Cooperative Extension (UCCE) within UC Agriculture and Natural Resources (UCANR). In this capacity, I am responsible for coordinating and overseeing UCCE programs across Sutter-Yuba, Glenn, Colusa, and Butte counties.

My journey to this role has been shaped by a uniquely diverse background. Growing up in a small rural town in Central



UCCE Student Ag Field Day



Visit to Barb'd Produce Stand in Colusa with the Cal Fresh Team

California, I had the privilege of learning from my father, who balanced his career as a professional with his work as a farmer. This dual perspective taught me the importance of hard work, adaptability, and finding innovative solutions to challenges—a foundation that has guided me throughout my career.

My career began as an entrepreneur, building and managing my own investment firm. This experience taught me the importance of strategic planning, innovation, and adaptability. Later, I transitioned to serve as the financial manager for the Modoc County Sheriff's Department, where I gained valuable experience navigating county government systems and maximizing resources in a rural setting.

After moving to Sacramento, I joined my alma mater, the UC Davis Graduate School of Management, as an associate admissions director. This role further enhanced my leadership and relationship-building skills, which I now bring to Cooperative Extension.

UCCE is uniquely positioned to connect the cutting-edge research of the University of California system to the needs of local communities, driving economic prosperity through innovation. As Area Director, my goal is to strengthen and expand UCCE programming in our counties, fostering collaboration and ensuring our programs remain responsive to the evolving needs of agriculture and rural economies.

Drawing on my entrepreneurial spirit, I aim to enhance UCCE's capacity to support local producers and communities in achieving their goals. By embracing creativity, fostering partnerships, and leveraging the vast resources of UCCE, we can address the challenges facing agriculture and rural communities while building a more sustainable and prosperous future.

I would like to thank Whitney Brim-DeForest for her dedicated service as the outgoing County Director. Her leadership and commitment to UCCE have been invaluable to our communities. I am pleased to share that Whitney will continue in her capacity as a Rice and Wild Rice Advisor, ensuring that her expertise and

passion for our region remain integral to UCCE's success. I look forward to working with our dedicated teams and stakeholders to bring this vision to life, ensuring UCCE continues to make a meaningful impact on the region.



Nine Graduate from Leadership Farm Bureau Program

Courtesy of CFBF AgAlert

A n intensive, monthslong training program concluded for nine California Farm Bureau members who participated in the organization's Leadership Farm Bureau program.

The class learned about communication, team building, advocacy and the Farm Bureau organization during 10 months of instruction. They participated in training on governmental policy, personal development and key issues affecting California farmers, ranchers and agricultural businesses. They

also advocated on behalf of Farm Bureau with lawmakers in Sacramento and Washington, D.C.

"The members we grow today through Leadership Farm Bureau are the future leaders of this organization, and I look forward to seeing all that they do in their counties and for California Farm Bureau," said Ryan Amaral, who manages the leadership program.

Graduates of the 2024 Leadership Farm Bureau class are:

- Ben Abatti III of Imperial County, a third-generation farmer who grows alfalfa, sugar beets, wheat and other forage crops in Holtville.
- Alex Arroyo of Monterey County, the general manager of King City Transplanting in the Salinas Valley.
- Tanya Brouse of Butte County, a program coordinator for the Butte County Farm Bureau who also works with the Butte Agriculture Foundation.
- Sy Honig of Sutter County, a third-generation farmer who owns Honig Farms and is a pest control adviser.
- Jackie Kennedy of Glenn County, the founder of Knaughty Farms Olive Oil and the office manager for a family farm growing olives, rice and walnuts.
- James Moller of Shasta County, a seventh-generation

- cattle rancher and a manager for Driscoll's Inc., which focuses on strawberry nursery production.
- Rachel Nettleton of Kern County, the executive director of the Kern County Farm Bureau and a marketing and communications professional.
- Harsimerdip "Harry" Sidhu of Sutter County, a vice president of First Northern Bank in Yuba City who grew up on his family's fruit and nut farm.
- Danielle Vietti of Tulare County, a vice president at AgWest Farm Credit in Tulare who specializes in dairy financing.
- The LFB class, which graduated during the 106th California Farm Bureau Annual Meeting in Monterey last week, represents the 24th group to graduate from the program since its inception in 2000.



The California Farm Bureau officer team congratulates the 2024 Leadership Farm Bureau Class on their graduation at the organization's 106th Annual Meeting in Monterey.

From left, First Vice President Shaun Crook, classmembers James Moller, Harsimerdip "Harry" Sidhu, Rachel Nettleton, Tanya Brouse, President Shannon Douglass, class members Jackie Kennedy, Danielle Vietti, Sy Honig, Ben Abatti III, Alex Arroyo and Second Vice President Ron Peterson. Photo/Brian Farinas

Yuba-Sutter Farm Bureau Business Members Directory

Support these businesses and let them know you are a Farm Bureau member! Call the Yuba-Sutter Farm Bureau at 673-6550 for information on becoming a Business Member.

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P.O. Box 564, Woodland, CA (530) 908-4689

SERVICES - OTHER

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5860 Feather River Blvd., Olivehurst, CA (530) 742-0284

Joel Giusti

Yuba City, CA (530) 237-6951

MPV Safety Professionals LLC

201 East St., Woodland, CA (530)848-0998

Sutter Buttes Regional Land Trust

P.O. Box 3359, Yuba City, CA (530) 755-3568

Yuba-Sutter Fairgrounds

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SUPPLY

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829 5th St., Marysville, CA (530) 743-9256

California Industrial Rubber Co., Inc.

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Derco Supply

2920 A Colusa Hwy., Yuba City, CA (530) 673-0481

Grange CoOp & Nursery Supply

1264 Stabler Ln., Yuba City, CA (530) 777-3551

Hust Brothers, Inc.

710 3rd St., Marysville, CA (530) 743-1561

Sutter Orchard Supply

573 Bridge St., Yuba City, CA (530) 673-8068

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Gee Agri Transport Inc.

Yuba City, CA (530) 682-1182 (Direct (530) 415-0504 (Text/Data)

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